



MONTEREY NEWS

Jan 2002

VOLUME XXXII · Number 1



The Town

Special Town Meeting Results

Four articles were up for consideration at the November 30 Special Town Meeting, which was attended by about seventy townspeople. The first article, to allocate money for forest-fire-fighting equipment, was passed over (voting deferred) unanimously, and the second, to allocate funds for increased clerical help at Town Hall, was unanimously approved.

The third article, on whether to authorize the Selectboard to borrow up to \$158,000 for the second phase of the Town Hall expansion, received a com-

prehensive discussion, which began with a review of the Town's finances by the Finance Committee. Based on interviews with the Department of Revenue, the School Committee, and the Town Accountant, the Finance Committee reported that the Town's finances are in good condition; the stabilization fund has around \$300,000, our tax rate is one of the lowest in the state, and Monterey is buffered from any adverse effect of state budget cuts. It was noted that there is not likely to be any Chapter 90 road repair money available to us for the next year, but that our roads should be in good condition for the next two years. The conclusion of the Finance Committee was

that the Town is in an excellent position to take on debt, and they advised that any money borrowed should be taken as a long-term loan to minimize the impact and assure the stabilization fund's ability to absorb a payment schedule. When questioned about the impact on our budget of the School Transportation budget and possible Chapter 70 cuts, members of the Selectboard and School Committee noted that the state still had some obligations and that even if some funds were cut there was enough in the stabilization fund to absorb them.

When asked why the Town was being asked to approve this article now, rather than at the next Annual Town



Richard Edelstein

Fireworks at August Lakefest

Meeting, members of the Select board responded that the favorable interest rates at this time were instrumental in the decision to present the article now, as we have no assurance interest rates will remain this low by the time of the May Annual Meeting.

Discussion continued with an explanation of the Town Hall renovation/expansion project and how it came to be done in stages, followed by a presentation of the architectural plans by Mr. Bixby of Clarke and Green. The details of the square footage and renovations completed to date were outlined, as well as plans for the expansion. Dimensions and square footage details are available in the minutes of the meeting, as are the specifics of the monies spent to date, which were discussed after the architect's report. The costs to taxpayers will be approximately \$150,000 a year for three years and \$50-60,000 a year for ten years, including the earlier borrowing of \$217,000 already authorized by the Town. This reflects the current rates gleaned from preliminary inquiries to one Berkshire County bank of 4.2 percent for a three-year loan or 5.3 percent for a ten-year loan, with the understanding that these rates might be lower after a bidding process. There was a discussion of storage space for Town records, an office for the police department and many other questions.

In the end the vote by secret ballot resulted in 43 Yes votes and 27 No votes, not the sufficient two-thirds majority required for authorization for borrowing. So the matter will likely be raised again at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

The fourth and final article, related to authorization of funds for a half-ton pickup to be used by the new Director of Operations, got a bit of discussion after the amount requested was amended from \$28,116 to \$35,816 to purchase a three-quarter-ton truck with a snowplow, which

could be used to help with snow removal if needed. The article was approved.

Truck Bid Accepted

Five bids for the aforementioned truck were received; they were opened in the December 17 Selectboard meeting. The board voted to accept the bid of \$29,614 from Condor Chevrolet for a three-quarter-ton pickup truck with a snowplow. The Condor bid, the lowest bid received, included an LS package with an extended warranty.

Six-Month Review of New Director of Operations

Stanley Ross noted the Transitional Resource Team's satisfaction with the management of the Highway Department to date and praised the proactive performance of new Director of Operations

Maynard Forbes. The TRT recommended that the director's salary be maintained at its current level and be reviewed at the end of the winter season. The Selectboard provided copies of the Highway Department job descriptions as prepared by Mr. Forbes. The TRT was queried with regard to its continued existence. Mr. Ross, TRT chair, responded that the ad hoc committee should remain in a solely advisory capacity for an additional six months to complete the transition.

Important Date Correction

The correct date for the celebration honoring the four Town retirees is the last Friday in May, May 31, 2002, NOT May 3 as announced in the last issue.

— Amy Goldfarb

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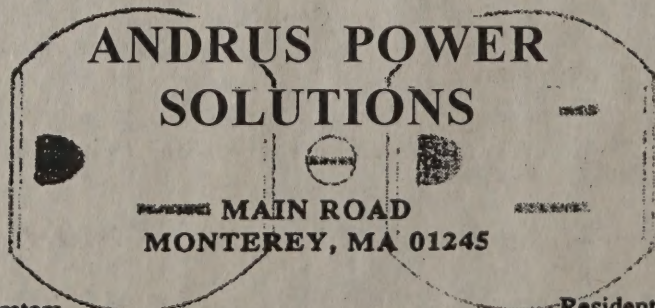
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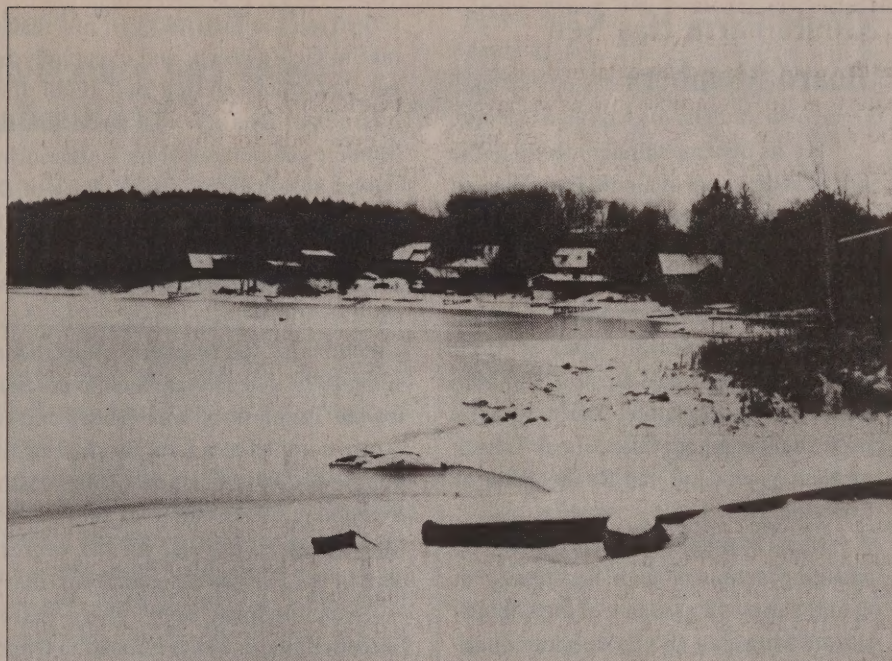
Monterey Firefighter State Certification Proceeds

The Southern Berkshire Fire Chief Association met again at the Monterey Firehouse on Tuesday, December 4, to wrestle with initiating and implementing training standards mandated by the Massachusetts Firefighting Council, as instituted by two laborious volumes from the Firefighting Academy, that encompass and entail the Firefighter 1 Program.

Fire Chiefs from companies in the Southern Berkshire Association participated and contributed to a lively but objective discussion to implement the state standards, to be taught by local firefighters in coordination with those training programs already in place at the respective companies. Taking a realistic approach, the Association, with Ray Tryon actively advising, and selected four programs from a complex encyclopedia of subjects, to begin with:

- Safety: 3 hours, 20 minutes;
- Personal Protective Equipment: 3 hours, 20 minutes;
- Rescue: 2 hours, 10 minutes;
- Hazardous Materials using outside trainer trailer

A vote was taken to complete all of the above (which entail additional time and effort for volunteers) by July 1, 2002,



Glynis Oliver

an ambitious schedule. Association Secretary Maynard Forbes will be responsible for tracking progress. The fire companies in southern Berkshire County, including Monterey, have their work cut out for them, but the enthusiasm and efficiency that has been coordinated and implemented is a testimonial to the volunteer spirit of their members and leaders.

— George Emmons



Skating Lessons in Monterey

The Southern Berkshire YMCA and the Monterey Park Commission are pleased to announce winter Ice Skating Lessons for children who are five years of age or older. This is the second year that the lessons have been offered at the Monterey Ice Skating Rink in the Firehouse pavilion. A total of five lessons will be offered beginning January 5, weather permitting. Each lesson is from 9 to 9:45 a.m. The fee for the lessons is \$40 per child for a total of five lessons. However, the fee is discounted for Monterey residents and SBYMCA members to \$30 per child for a total of five lessons. Financial assistance is available for all SBYMCA programs; inquire for details. Please call Marta at 528-YMCA/9622, ext. 3 to register.



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Gould Farm Has New Board Members

At its recent annual meeting, the board of directors of Gould Farm elected Catherine McKee Mendelsohn of Towaco, New Jersey, to the board. Elected as associate members are Pierre Duhon of New Marlborough, Muriel Lazzarini of Monterey, Karen Shreefter of Monterey, David Perrin of Boston, Timothy Silard of San Francisco, Karin Sprague of N. Scituate, Rhode Island, Leah Tchack of New York City, and Randy West of Lowville, New York.

Mrs. Mendelsohn, who grew up spending summers with her family at Gould Farm, is a graduate of the University of Michigan (BS in special education). She taught social studies, English, math, and consumer education for several years at a county detention center in Adrian, Michigan. She has been a member of the corporation since 1999.

Pierre Duhon attended Louisiana State University and moved to the Berkshires in 1988 when he joined the staff at Gould Farm, serving until 1990. He presently works at Tall Pine Farm in Monterey and resides in New Marlborough with his wife, Paula, and son, Peyton.

A graduate of UCLA and longtime resident of Potomac, Maryland, and New York City, Muriel Lazzarini moved to the Berkshires in 1991. While in Maryland she started a bread-baking business,

served as executive manager of a restaurant in Georgetown, and eventually began her own catering and retail food business. Deeply involved in the Monterey community, Mrs. Lazzarini has served as president and secretary of the Lake Garfield Association, was a member of Monterey's 150th Anniversary Steering Committee, is a member of the Conservation Commission, and has been a member of the Monterey Selectboard since 1997. She is membership co-chair for the Tanglewood tour guides and recently completed a term as chair of the Tanglewood Association of the Boston Symphony Association of Volunteers. Mrs. Lazzarini has also served as president of the Fairview Hospital Auxiliary.

For the past four years Karen Shreefter has served as Education Director for the Southern Berkshire Literacy Network, an adult literacy program. Ms. Shreefter is editor and head of production for *Berkshire Senior* and is a theater reviewer for WAMC. She has worked with adults in the adult education programs at Lee High School, the 92nd Street Y in New York, Berkshire Community College, and Camp Bronx House Emanuel in Copake, New York. Ms. Shreefter has taught teenagers with educational and social problems at the Pittsfield Alternate School and Shirle Hill Hospital School in Sheffield, England. She is an advisory

group member of Project Link at Berkshire Community College.

David Perrin graduated from Columbia University (BA in anthropology) and came to Gould Farm in 1996 as a volunteer intern. Mr. Perrin has completed internships with Ogilvy & Mather Advertising in New York, The Environment Magazine in Norwalk, Connecticut, the Foundation on Economic Trends in Washington, D. C., and Green Chimneys Children's Services in Brewster, New York. Most recently he completed an internship with the Haymarket People's Fund in Boston and is pursuing a career in philanthropy using the media as a marketing tool.

Timothy Silard is Managing Attorney for the Community Justice Program of the San Francisco district attorney's office. A graduate of Brown University (BA) and Stanford University (J.D.), Mr. Silard worked at Gould Farm from 1983-1984 and then served in the Peace Corps in Togo. He was formerly development director for the AIDS Memorial Quilt Project and serves on the board of Coleman Advocates for Children and SAGE, a substance abuse and trauma recovery program for women and girls. Mr. Silard is also a grantwriter and grant review consultant.

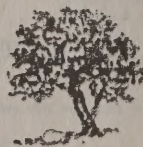
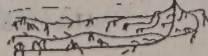
Karin Sprague is an established stonecarver, creating memorials and other

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works for clients across the United States. Her initial studies were in wood carving and she worked at Bentsen Signs in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. As her skill and experience developed she studied eighteenth-century carving and became interested in gravestone lettering. While exhibiting in the Berkshires in 1990, Ms. Sprague was introduced to Gould Farm and developed a strong connection with the community. She is currently creating memorials and other stone work for clients across the United States.

Randy West, Coordinator of the Trauma Survivors Resource Center in Lowville, New York, is a graduate of Miami University of Ohio (BA in English) and Ohio State (MS in Ecology). He previously served as a psychiatric intern at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington.

Former Monterey resident and Gould Farm volunteer Leah Tchack graduated from Queens College, CUNY (BA in psychology). A retired Adjunct Professor of Psychology at Nassau Community College, Mrs. Tchack has been associated with Gould Farm since 1983. Her

Jan 9 Community Dinner to Feature Jazz Singer Alice Berke

The next community dinner is set for Wednesday, January 9, at 6 p.m. in the Meetinghouse basement. After dinner, at 7:30, Monterey's own jazz singer, Alice

late husband, Ted, served as president of the Farm's board of directors in the mid-1990s.

Gould Farm is a 600-acre residential treatment program for adults with mental illness. The Farm provides an environment where clients learn to manage the symptoms of their illnesses while living and working with staff to participate in and sustain a meaningful community and develop skills they can take with them when they leave the program. The Farm owns and operates the Roadside Store and Café on Route 23 in Monterey, where it sells its own maple syrup, pancake mix, mint tea, salad dressing, and other products as well as a line of Adirondack chairs.

Berke, will sing for us, accompanied by Arnie Hayes. The performance will be upstairs in the sanctuary; it is free and open to everyone, even those who are not able to come to the dinner.

More than sixty Montereyans came out on the evening of December 13 for the second of the revived community dinners in the cheerful setting of the renovated Meetinghouse basement. The fare was once again plentiful and delicious, and the conversation and good spirits flowed. After dinner MaryKate Jordan gave an enlightening presentation on Light in relation to the holidays and the winter solstice.

Everyone is encouraged to come to the dinner. It's a great chance to share good food and good conversation with your neighbors, and a welcome break in the bleak midwinter. Bring a dish that will serve eight to ten people and your own table settings. Beverages will be supplied.

Future dinners are scheduled for the following dates:

Thursday, February 14
Wednesday, March 13
Thursday, April 11
Wednesday, May 8

Thanks to Kathie Frome and the volunteers who do the work needed to make these dinners happen.

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Reflections on LakeFest 2001

Now that the first shivers of winter are here to shake our shoulders, I think back to last August 18—and thoughts of LakeFest 2001 warm me through and through. And through.

Never before has an investment of mine reaped such rich rewards. As a member of the Lake Garfield Association's LakeFest committee, I invested a moderate amount of time and effort; not nearly as much as some of the supermen and superwomen I worked with. Nevertheless, my "gratification," as Mark Twain might describe it, was boundless. (Bushels better than my NASDAQ investments. Arggh!)

The spirit of the committee was fueled by the town's spirited response to our fireworks fund-raising efforts. Starting a month before the big day, we took turns manning our station in front of our beloved general store. (Three cheers for Shelley and the gang!) We sold raffles for an inflatable boat and peddled Lake Garfield posters. Monterey's masses filled the till big time, as did our business community. Sunday nights we'd each look forward to an e-mail with the weekend's dollar tally. The numbers were so impressive I suggested we go public, have an IPO! In fact, enough money was raised for a dazzling display of fireworks—with enough left over for LGA to donate playground equipment for the town beach.

Each of us on the LakeFest committee felt privileged to be working with each and every other member. A word about the ones who impressed me the most, good people who've now become cherished friends . . .

Len Simon, acting treasurer of LGA, typified the relentless efforts of my fellow committee members. The five-star general of our general store fund-raising, Len set all sales records. He even sold a poster to YoYo Ma. When one passerby tried to rebuke his boat raffle pitch, saying she was just visiting from Minnesota, Len pointed out that Minnesota has 10,000 lakes. Surely they could use a boat. Of course, Len sold the raffle ticket. And who won the boat? Yup! The Minnesota lady.

Len's lovely wife, Marion, is a professional fund-raiser. Guess who headed



Glynnis Oliver

up LGA's formidable fund-raising? Right, again. However, for this assignment, instead of directing an effort for a national charity, Marion wrote and printed letters and stuffed and licked envelopes. In addition, Marion Simon possesses an uncanny ability to keep things on track, nipping tangents in the bud, making sure that we never strayed from our goals.

Another super raffle and poster seller is the silver-tongued Harriet Harvey. Hey, when you combine unbridled enthusiasm, sheer fearlessness, a fresh sense of humor, and a bright, sincere smile—who could so no?

The saying "When you want something done, ask a busy person" personifies Janet Cathcart. Janet's contributions defy listing. For me, the highlight of her accomplishments is the beautiful, bucolic Lake Garfield poster that she photographed, printed, and often hand-delivered. And, oh yes, she did all she did while commuting to and from California.

(Chicago would have been far enough, but not for Janet.)

Last, and certainly not least—maybe even "most"—is Kathie Frome, formerly Maye, always amazing. Kathie, a practicing midwife and acting president of LGA, put her endless energy to work on a preponderant number of LakeFest plans. Kathie initiated, orchestrated, designated, and coordinated projects with unabated zeal. Kudos for Kathie.

What a wondrous day August 18, 2001, turned out to be. The beach adorned with an exceptional array of sandcastles, canoe trips on the pond, boat rides on the lake, an armada of paper boats, happy painted faces, a masterful mural courtesy of the kids, a sumptuous potluck dinner, a unique concert and the fireworks finale. Ba-da-boom!!!

My personal highlights came during the boat trips. When life gets frenzied and I get frazzled, I sometimes close my eyes, breathe deeply, and imagine myself in my boat on the lake. That's how perfect a place it is for me. So I was more than delighted to be in my boat and share the ride with my Monterey neighbors, many of whom hadn't been on the lake in years. All were more than generous in expressing their appreciation. My high came when I asked the youngest children to help by steering my boat. Sweet faces so full of elation, the bright vision of their sunny smiles still stays with me, a warm comforter for the winter ahead.

— Hy Rosen



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Lake Garfield Skating Party

An old fashioned party is planned at Lake Garfield for a Saturday afternoon in February, weather permitting. Will there be ice? The tentative date is February 16 or 23, from 2 to 5 p.m.

The party will be sponsored by Lake Garfield Association and the Monterey Park Commission.

Check the February *Monterey News* and the LGA web site (<http://www.lakegarfield.org>) for emerging details.

Call Kathie Frome at 528-2516 if you'd like to help or make suggestions.

Glynis Oliver



Hazardous Waste Collection

Seventeen towns in southern Berkshire County joined together last spring to launch the Southern Berkshire County Regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program. The program runs from July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2002, with collections seasonally May through October. According to Sheffield Recycling Coordinator and steering committee member David Steindler, "The program has been far more successful than we ever thought possible."

Eight collection opportunities have already taken place, six at the three mini collection sites in Lenox, Otis, and Great Barrington, where residents could bring unused oil-based paint and motor oil. Two comprehensive HHW collections were held in Stockbridge and Great Barrington where residents disposed of pesticides,

cleaning products, mercury fever thermometers, automotive supplies, driveway sealant, solvents, and many other common household products. Over 450 residents participated in at least one collection and more than 5,500 gallons of hazardous waste were collected and disposed of properly. In addition, about 1575 gallons of paint and 450 gallons of motor oil have been collected at the three mini sites. This regional program is overseen by a six-member steering committee composed of five representatives from the participating towns and the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Western Massachusetts Municipal Recycling Incentive Program Coordinator, Arlene Miller. The steering committee has contracted with the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) from Pittsfield to co-

ordinate the program. CET reported that about 800 residents were served with information about hazardous waste disposal by phone as a result of this program.

The members of the steering committee recognized there was a need for this service and were optimistic from the beginning that this model would work. According to Greg Federspeil, Lenox Town Administrator and steering committee member, "It has worked far beyond our expectation. South County has benefited both financially and environmentally by our regional cooperation." The steering committee anticipates continued success once the mini site collections resume in May and June 2002.

For more information about the regional HHW collection program, contact Jamie Cahillane at CET (413-445-4556)



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Senator Says State Budget

On December 5, 2001, the legislature concluded debate and veto overrides for the FY2002 budget. As you may know, the combination of the tragic events of September 11 and the current economic recession have had a negative impact on the Commonwealth's ability to meet many of its obligations. In order to balance the budget, the legislature tapped a total of almost \$800 million from the \$1.7 billion Stabilization Fund (also known as the Rainy Day Fund), and from an FY01 escrow account. The Legislature also made difficult, but necessary cuts in state programs equal to \$650 million. The cuts are serious, yet so is our responsibility to balance the budget and prepare for the future. While this year's budget is far from perfect, there are several commitments that the Legislature was able to fulfill.

Health Care and Prescription Advantage: Working with Senate President Tom Birmingham, I supported the use of 50 percent of the tobacco settlement to assist public health initiatives. I was

pleased that many of our vital health programs were funded, including \$135 million to help keep hospitals open. Similarly, the budget contains an additional \$13 million to protect the Prescription Advantage program. The final budget also included \$16.1 million for the school nurse program. School nurses play an important role for many of our most vulnerable children in urban and rural areas.

Local Aid: The FY2002 budget largely preserves local aid for cities and towns. This funding was directed to the largest and most flexible accounts that will help local officials deal with the changing economy. The budget included \$5.135 billion for local aid, representing an increase of \$277 million or 5.7 percent over FY01. Chapter 70 school aid was increased by \$3.21 billion, or 8 percent over FY01. Lottery aid, which is the most flexible account for municipalities, received a \$778 million dollar increase, an increase of 6 percent over FY01. Regional school transportation received \$51.1 million, an increase of 5 percent over FY01. Despite these increases, two important local aid accounts did in fact receive reductions. Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and Chapter 81 highway funds were reduced 28 percent and 75 percent respectively. I was disappointed that these cuts were made, and I will work to restore funding to these accounts, which

are particularly important to communities in western Massachusetts.

Education: The budget includes a \$220 million increase in state aid (Chapter 70) for local schools, maintaining education reform's promise to guarantee all school children at least an adequate level of spending. The budget also includes a \$10 million increase for MCAS remediation. Because students must pass the MCAS for graduation, I believe the state should provide this additional tutorial program funding, which is contained in the budget.

Supplemental Budget: On December 13, 2001, I supported the supplemental budget passed by the legislature that restored funding for human service programs and adult basic education programs statewide. The budget included an additional \$33.3 million for the Department of Mental Retardation, \$16.6 million for the Department of Mental Health, and \$2.5 million for AIDS. This funding was critical to the respective departments to meet the needs of their clients. Also, an additional \$12.5 million was allocated for adult basic education programs statewide. Adequate funding for adult basic education is key to maintaining and developing an educated workforce in the Commonwealth.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.



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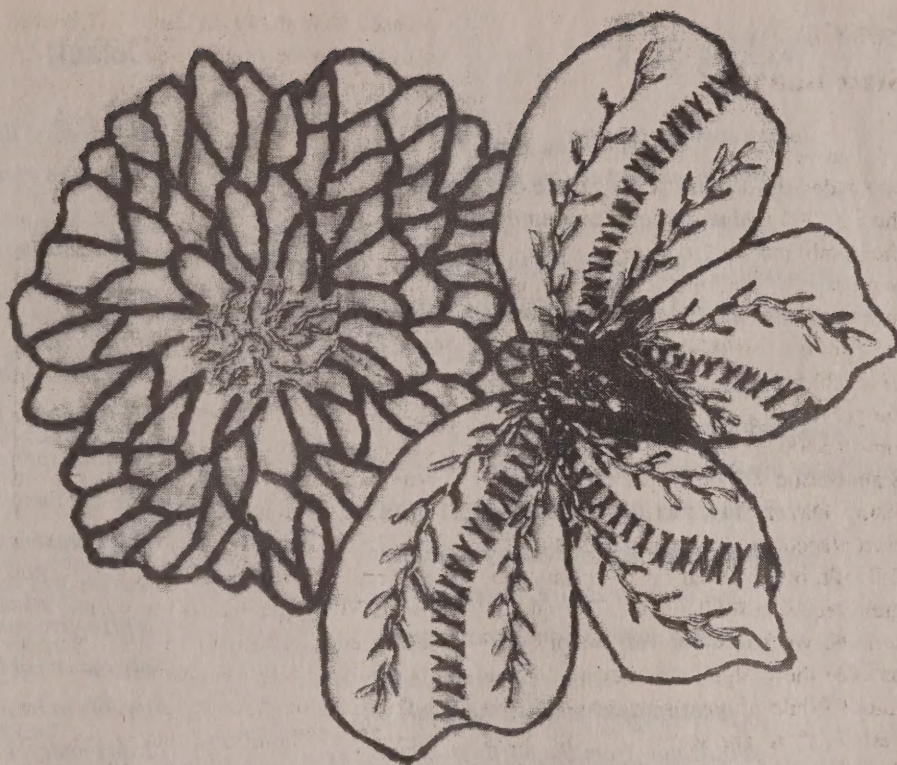
Cora's Debut

When I was teaching homeschoolers, we had a great time with both embroidery and quilting. The different techniques had different supporters, of course, and the girls were quite clear about their opinions. Cora Baker was the one most constant in her love of, and most adventurous in her exploration of, embroidery.

When butterflies were their source of inspiration for needlework, each girl chose her favorite from some copyright-free images published by Dover. Then, using a pane in one of the large windows of the meetinghouse as a light box, she used a pencil to transfer the line drawing to a piece of muslin. Once her butterfly was caught this way, each girl chose the colors and stitches she'd use to turn her plain grey pencil lines on plain unbleached muslin into an embroidered treasure.

The image you see here is Cora's choice of a butterfly with open wings hovering over a chrysanthemum. Her color sense is strong and subtle.

The chrysanthemum petals are defined with a deep red outline stitch. The stitches at the center of the flower are bronzed saffron stem stitch, with saffron French knots. The colors define the flower clearly. The butterfly hovers, in front and above. Its body is stitched in an almost



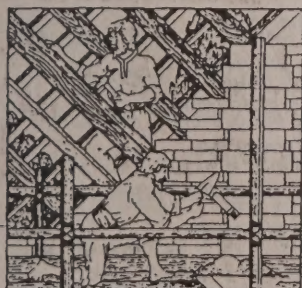
metallic pale greenish gold chain stitch and satin stitches of a green-toned bronze. The wings, embellished with areas of blue-grey-lavender cross-stitch and pale lavender feather stitch, are defined by brown tweed outline stitches.

Recently, the Embroiderers' Guild of America decided to sponsor their first national show of work done by children and teens. Cora applied for consider-

ation, and her work has been chosen as part of the show. This month she will receive a letter from the judging panel, a combination of congratulations and directions for the shipment of her treasure.

Next time you see Cora, extend your congratulations to her, too. Her needlework shines with quiet strength and beauty, as she does.

— MaryKate Jordan



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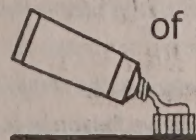
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mind, full of blue emptiness
tree bone whispers in the ear
this walking stick is all that keeps
us together, me and these beautiful,
sad eyed Jack o' lanterns
sad, not because the tapestry
of turning has returned to rust
nor that this day of the dead
is so warm with recent arrival
but because desire, violence
and suffering are necessary —

incessantly changing, the wind
spirals now from the northern clouds
this walking stick weeps with cold rain

— R. Zukowski

The Streets of Ephesus

As we walk
the broken marble streets of Ephesus
in shadeless memory of many-breasted Diana
and the narrow footprints of Paul himself
the sunsplashed whites of the vast city
once by the sea, now wrenched to a mountain
come up out of nowhere
mocking, accusing us —
the truth dazzles up
out of light, out of past scripture:

it is we who are the ruins
because we have forgotten it.

— A. O. Howell

Default

My identity, like my laptop says,
'Has been created by default.'

A few summers were given me
to crawl 'on hands and knees'
(Frost's girls with their hair falling)
over the cranberry bog,
searching for frogs and turtles:
painted, spotted pond, box, snappers.
The box turtles were treasures.
The snappers were monsters,
their scaled thorny backs,
a primitive stone in the shallow trench,
almost invisible because of its size,
too big to be alive in the same sun
I was under. I almost stepped on it,
the back of that ancient stone monster,
to cross the ditch of summer cranberry red.
This big thing was under my nose,
the most dangerous quarry of the bog.
I almost missed it, but I didn't.
I poked the sunken stone with a stick
that I ran into the pines to get
to strike the shell of my courage.
Maybe it will move when I break my stick
on it and it did. It clouded the water with its
clawing buried feet. This stone turtle
moved, and I ran across the tangled roots,
the dry but spongy plants, frogs laughing,
crackling under, sinking, tripping up
my little boy feet, my panting heart in the sun,
uncombed blond hair: I was in heaven
with my fear! Was it chasing me? I did not dare
look back. The creature of the bog, just an old snapper
who felt the strange insistent tapping on its shell,
burrowing deeper into the mud.

— Peter Shepley

The Wise Guy

Beware, beware, beware!
drones Saturn, but he means it.

*He's wearing his black and grey pinstriped overalls
today and his beard is yellowing.*

Beware of righteousness!
Have you ever been deceived by an empty milk carton
that looked virgin, proud and full?
or broken into an empty egg — that old child's trick?

Let me tell you something
the minute you think you have the last
brick, stitch, or word, I see a light on the computer over there.

Then I know it's time override for the Undoing.
I may move slowly, dearie, but I never missed
an Undoing yet.

It's sort of my specialty, don't you know!

*He chuckles
tries to light a pipe but the match burns to its end
as he talks.*

Beware of judging!
There is a fence of rulers around my place
each one labeled with a name.
I saw yours the other day. Yup, it's getting longer
that's good. What's it for?

To measure you with your own measure
at the end.

Oh, judging is the hardest thing to avoid!

People do it all the time. I know.
That's why I don't touch it. Never. Never.

I let folks do it for themselves.
The judge is there all right
but the worst of it is he will be wearing
your face!

That's a terrible shock for most folk.
It gets 'em every time. Mebbe that's why it's called
The Last Judgment.

Nobody, I reckon, wants to try that twice!

Beware of forcing!
That always makes for a mess. You get mad

stamp on a plank and it hits you.

You steal and find yourself robbed of sleep.
You lie and end up trusting nobody. It don't pay.

It's not just a matter of this Save-your-soul bit.
It's just playing it smart both ways. The way I see it
virtue is enlightened self-interest.

I'm thinking of putting up two big signs somewhere:
NOTHING, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, FOR FREE!
YOU GETS WHAT YOU GIVES!

I could sign it Karma to show we're up to date
around here.

But folks won't go for this. No money in it.
All this buy now, pay later —
SIN ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN!

They could call it Stupidity-of-the-day
have a Stupidity-of-the-Month-Club

With a Free Sin for a Bonus.
Now that might sell real good. "Save up for that nice trip
to where it's WARM!" Get it?

He rubbed his hands over that one.
Nah, that's too new-fangled.

Here we have crime make its own punishment.

Switch that light on, will you. See each
shadow fits the substance. Neat
Oh, it's all in the good books, all right.
We play fair around here. But nowadays folks think
it's junk mail or advertising, I hear.

I'm not much of a reader myself.
My specialty is the hard way, don't you know.

Beware, beware, beware!
drones Saturn, his rheumy eyes looking at me.
He holds out his arms not unkindly.

Come here, little girl, let me look at you.
You haven't understood one word, have you!
Don't matter, you'll go your own way of course.
Only don't come running to me, hear
I'll only tell you I told you so!

— A. O. Howell

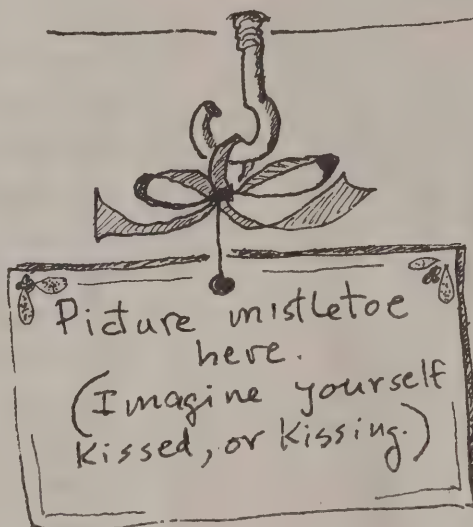
P. C. Christmas Trees and Mistletoe Too

These days it can be tricky computing one's eco-credits: I recycle my bottles and cans assiduously, so is it okay for me to pollute the air with an optional trip to town to pick up a quart of milk? Better I should drink water until my shopping list is of a certain length? Better I should carpool with someone who has an electric car fitted up with photovoltaic cells? I should keep a cow and not drive to town for milk any more, feeding my cow on grain I grow myself, or possibly I should get a goat. Then I would have to feed it my bottles and cans (goats eat these, right?), and there go my eco-credits down the little red goat lane.

One area of computational danger is the Christmas tree. People drive to town to pick up a live tree which they drive home and decorate and afterwards plant. How many miles has that little tree traveled and in whose Politically Correct vehicle? Other people slide out into the woods and cut a tree, maybe with a roaring, stinking tool. They drag this home (good exercise), decorate it, and later toss it back into the woods where it will break down to humus and feed the surviving trees. Or maybe, like us, they will feed it to the goat to produce milk and save that optional trip

to town. Goats do not insist on a pure diet of bottles and cans.

A friend told me a few weeks ago that his young daughter will not allow him to cut a Christmas tree, nor to buy a cut tree. I told him about a tradition I recently read about. The family of Wyoming naturalist Olaus Murie used to have a Christmas tree made of a fencepost. Olaus drilled holes up and down the post and stuck branches in it. They got a kick out of making their tree representative of



several different species, a branch of this, a branch of that. We used to do something similar here when our deep-woods little pines came in quite sparse-looking. We made enough holes in the trunk to fill in with a few branches to cover the bare spots.

This solstice time requires a lot of décor. We have a primal fear that the

darkness will just keep expanding and the only thing to drive it away is loud partying, music, sugar, and many twinkling lawn ornaments. Since the days of the druids this approach to seasonal momentum has worked: the days get longer and summer comes at last. We cut boughs, preferably green ones, and hang them up indoors and out. If our daughters can't bear for us to sever a living branch, we can get quite plausible plastic or metal ones which can be dusted off and used year after year. We can get whole trees of these materials, but odds are the initial purchase will require a drive to town.


One botanical tradition in my family, since I was little, has been the hanging of a sprig of mistletoe from some beam or doorway. My parents always did it and we made much of ambushing each other with kisses, or of elaborately avoiding passage under the mistletoe. We were into being the kisser more than the kissee, for some reason. Even though there were some mysteries for me about mistletoe (what exactly was it? It did not grow in our woods), it was one of my favorite Christmas wrinkles. I made sure to carry it with me when I had kids of my own.

For years I was able to buy it at Ward's or from a florist. Sometimes it would be so battered (and not cheap) that I knew it had come from a far-off place, and I became increasingly convinced it had not traveled by electric car. One year a friend sent me some she had gathered in Texas. It was tattered and sticky and had made a mess of her Christmas parcel to

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our family. She later told me that her family tradition, growing up in Texas where mistletoe had nothing to do with trips to town, involved going out to the river bottom and shooting it down. Mistletoe is a modest little plant, but it is a parasite and grows way up in tall trees. Here in New England we might approach this problem with axes, cherry pickers, climbing spikes, or chain saws. In Texas it is the six-shooter, or whatever armaments you use on plants.

This year, like a lot of people, I have been particularly conscious of my indulgent, consumeristic ways. I have cut back, made my dollar speak my conscience. What to do about mistletoe? I was in the thrift shop, obtaining pre-owned treasures to tidy up and wrap, hoping they had not been dropped off there earlier that day by the very people I was about to give them to, when I spotted the P.C. mistletoe. It was not sticky, not tattered, not oozing from gunshot wounds. This was a perfect ball of green leaves and waxy white berries, with a bit of bright red ribbon thrown

Glynis Oliver



haphazardly in for cheer. It also had some red berries here and there which were an endearing botanical anomaly harking perhaps to the holly and or the ivy. It was a little dusty and it cost 25 cents.

What a coup! I snuck it in the house with the quart of milk and hung it in the middle of the kitchen ceiling. Pretty soon my first test animal came in sight: a daughter. Gotcha! Smack. ("Mo-om!") Smugly I indicated the magic plant representative overhead. Wow—the look, the

rolled eyeballs. It soon came out that this family member, and all the others as well, still had far to go down the morally philosophical trail I had already traveled. Oddly enough, to them it seemed I had flipped my aesthetic wig and gone out and bought a piece of cheap, tacky Christmas geegaw with which I had now polluted the sacred environment of our handsome, wholesome, handmade log house with all its attention to personally crafted traditional detail.

How could they think this? So it is plastic, ugly, and botanically incorrect. These are small matters, I tell them, when you consider that no trees have been shot in Texas, no extra gallons of gasoline burned (I was getting the milk anyway, remember?), and in fact no new plastic geegaws manufactured from compromising materials. Besides, as has been amply demonstrated by me, this fake mistletoe works every bit as well as the real McCoy; in terms of kissing. But, okay, I get the message. Next year I will hide this phony mistletoe away, my light under a bushel. I have a plan for virtual mistletoe, but I am not ready yet to settle for virtual kissing! Not for aesthetic concerns nor for eco-credits. There is a limit.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Anthrax and Buzzards

Long before terrorists and pranks used the U.S. Postal Service to spread, or threaten to spread, anthrax to unsuspecting and innocent citizens and government or media high profile individuals, anthrax was considered mainly a threat to animals, such as cows and sheep. However, it could be transmitted to humans, and buzzards were routinely shot by farmers, erroneously thinking they could carry the disease after feeding on dead animals that were infected.

Fortunately vaccines were found to be almost 100 percent effective, and buzzards, including our local turkey vulture, were also given a clean bill of health in this respect, because unless an animal is already long dead vultures rarely come into contact with livestock. Now they are protected by law, even though they are the least likely species to get a clean bill of health. Perhaps the stigma of poor personal hygiene goes back thousands of

years to their evolutionary origins; they are probably descended from prehistoric reptiles. Like snakes, vultures can be repulsive when they get in your face, emitting putrid odors from dining on carrion, regurgitating what they have eaten, and hissing like angry serpents in a threatening way to make you keep your distance.

In the middle of the nineteenth cen-

tury, an anthrax epidemic spread among farm animals, mainly sheep, in the Midwest, and agricultural regulations required thousands of animals to be destroyed from the entire surrounding region. Near the town of St. Mary's, Ohio, the carcasses littered large areas of fields, and of course the vultures congregated there from surrounding states. Strangely

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enough, from that feast until modern times, the vultures came again each subsequent year to congregate near the same fields, at the same time of the year as the original agricultural cleansing. Among ornithologists, a migration of this kind can be classified as an "irruption," or a large scale deviation from normal migration patterns.

Last summer, on my daily trip down River Road to feed the trout at the Berkshire Fish Hatchery, I would sometimes see turkey vultures perched in the dead trees that mark the wide swath of the 1995 Memorial Day tornado. As the warming sun peeped over the horizon to the east, frequently they would extend their wings, to dry them if it had rained the previous night. They also are known to strike this familiar pose when they are too hot, so you may have seen it as well. The vultures are gone now and will not return until the warming thermals of spring permit their signature behavior, called "static soaring flight," circling endlessly without apparent effort until their sense of smell or extraordinary vision tells them it is dinner time. With their overpowering digestive capacity, they clean the countryside of unhealthy carrion, and also visit the compost pile maintained by Gould Farm, near the Transfer Station. They will be back when an isotherm, or an average temperature, of at least 35 degrees moves upon the Berkshires. So when you see vultures circling overhead, it is not a bad omen, but a seasonal measure of winter's glacier moving past.

— George Emmons

Sandisfield Arts Center Gets Grant, Picks Architect

The Sandisfield Arts Center has been awarded a \$95,000 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Services Fund. The grant will be used to restore the granite foundation of the historic 1839 arts center building. The work will include the creation of handicap accessibility and improvements to the lower level as well.

The grant requires 50:50 matching funds. Arts Center President, Liana Toscanini said, "We have raised about \$60,000 so far toward the match. We cannot imagine how we would undertake such a huge project without financial assistance from the Massachusetts Historical Commission."

The Arts Center has awarded the job of master planning to The Architecture Team of Pittsfield. The Sandisfield Arts Center building is slated for historic restoration over the next five years. In announcing the award, Toscanini said, "This project is complex, as building codes and historic preservation guidelines often conflict; however, The Architecture Team is well suited to the job, offering creative and cost-effective solutions in every instance."

The Architecture Team principals, Chuck Chiecko of Becket and Harry Pisila of Pittsfield, have historic restoration experience and were approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A portion of the architect's fees

will be funded by a \$2500 grant from the National Trust's Mildred Jones Keefe Preservation Services Fund.

The Sandisfield Arts Center roof and belfry were restored in 2000 with help from the Massachusetts Historic Commission Preservation Services Fund. Matching funds were raised via an ongoing capital campaign. The foundation is scheduled for repair in the spring of 2002.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is recognized for its historical significance and cultural importance. Originally a Baptist meetinghouse, it became the only known rural orthodox synagogue on record in the state of Massachusetts in 1921. In 1995, the descendants of the original Jewish congregation deeded the building to the Sandisfield Arts & Restoration Committee, a nonprofit organization formed specifically to save the building and hold cultural programs there. Today, the Sandisfield Arts Center presents over twenty programs a year, has a membership of 300, and has raised close to \$200,000 toward the restoration of the building. For more information about this project, call (413) 258-3309.

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Road Salt Problems

To the Editor:

I came across an item in a magazine I was reading the other day and I thought I'd pass it along to the readers of the *Monterey News*, especially since we are once again in the winter season.

The report, from the nature magazine *Terre Sauvage*, states that between 400,000 and 1.4 million tons of salt are applied each winter to France's roads to remove snow and ice. To quote the magazine, "All this salt has an environmental cost that is being discovered little by little." Evidence already indicates that road salt builds up in the soil and can pollute drinking wells, water tables, lakes, and ponds. It kills fragile plants living within 200 feet of salted roads and burns the root tips of trees. When salt is absorbed by tree roots it hinders photosynthesis; thus with repeated exposure trees weaken and die. Wildlife is also affected; animals drawn to roads to lick the salt are often struck by motor vehicles or die because of taking in too much salt too quickly.

People are also at risk because under some conditions salt can contribute to the formation of the dreaded and dangerous "black ice." Experience has shown that on a snow-covered road drivers are usually cautious, but many take risks on snow-free roads, unaware that such ice may have formed. European authorities recommend: "Salt better, salt less."

A wise person once said, "Those who refuse to learn from the mistakes of others are destined to repeat them." Let's hope that is not the case here in Monterey.

— Lyman Thomson
Monterey

MONTEREY A LOCAL HISTORY

Edited by Peter Murkett, Ian Jenkins, & Kim Hines

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Checks to "150th Anniversary Celebration"

September 11 and Us

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to a letter from June Grancio in your December issue in which she comments on letters in the November issue from Melissa Hamilton and John Sellew.

The personal experiences of visiting the World Trade Center site must be indeed heartbreaking, and we weep for all who lost loved ones. Although I appreciate Ms. Grancio's description of the reality of the scene of the tragedy which we know as Ground Zero, I must register my objections to her misplaced anger.

I have five members of my family who live and work in Manhattan. One is my infant granddaughter. One is my son who is a New York City uniformed firefighter. He does his share of digging these days. I have visited my son's firehouse. It is an historic brick double house, with one side the engine company and the other side the ladder company. They lost six of their brothers. My son and I have been to wakes and funerals. It is all wrenching.

I have not been to Ground Zero, yet I doubt that anyone is without the imagination to smell the acrid smoke, which affects all people in New York, depending on which way the wind blows. I do not believe that it requires a visit to these sites to feel the reality of September 11th. Those of us who have been watching the tragedy on television have certainly

shared in the horror. We tremble at the thought of underground fires which may never be put out. No one has been untouched, whether having seen it on our living room TV's or from behind the fence in lower Manhattan.

Fortunately, many people are writing letters to newspapers, congress, and the President with a concern for some sane direction in our dangerous world. Letters to the President from young Americans are to be highly prized. Ms. Hamilton sees the need for the New Millennium to evolve beyond war, to find ways to remedy factors that breed violence. Ms. Hamilton has clearly studied wars of the past. It may be that Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Sellew have not visited Ground Zero. However that may be, clearly they are not lacking in deep understanding of what portends now and for our future. Ms. Hamilton's description of picking flowers with the two-year-old child is both tender and insightful. It reveals the wisdom and strength from learning and loving, not what Ms. Grancio takes as naiveté.

Ms. Grancio refers to that scene and to Mr. Sellew's practice of Transcendental Meditation in a scornful tone. This is very sad—a cynical response to two people of faith, two people who offer hope for a way forward which embraces life. Ms. Grancio comes out swinging for the American way of death. Her conclusion is that she "will support bombing and killing our terrorist enemies wher-

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ever they are and if innocents get in the way, as they did in Dresden, Cologne, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, so be it!" This defies all human reason. INNOCENTS! INNOCENTS!, for God's sake! Are American innocents different from any other innocents? Ms. Grancio claims as models older Americans who remember the paths of war taken as far back as Presidents Roosevelt and Truman. That was a long time ago, Ms. Grancio, and seemed right at the time, according to what we knew, but war now in the nuclear age is very different.

She writes: "The American people and our freedoms are more important than anyone else's innocents." This all-inclusive view of our citizens discounts many who are working toward a world with no more victims anywhere and who do not feel personally more important than other civilians in other lands. She seems intent on sabotaging such efforts. This does no justice to the sacrifice of real heroes. Real heroes save lives. Those who bomb and kill innocents are not heroes. I would invite Ms. Grancio to visit Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan to see the dead, the injured, the refugees. I wonder if she would still ask people to see it her way. In her own words, "If you don't weep at one of these places, you will never weep anywhere."

Let us continue to believe, without fear of seeming simple, that "The wolf shall lie down with the kid, the lamb with the lion, and a little child shall lead them."

— Caroline Besse Webster
Canaan, CT

Town Hall Renovations

To the Editor:

I entered the Town Hall in November for the first time since the renovation and thought "How sweet it is!" How easy and how dignified it feels now to enter the Town Hall in Monterey! Gone are the days of struggling up the old front steps with the rickety railing. Now people who are mobility impaired can enter at street level and rely on the elevator to transport them to the town offices.

Thank you to all those who worked to make the barrier removal a reality.

Wishing you a peace-filled New Year,

— Mary T. Makuc
Monterey

Aw, Shucks

To the Editor:

I want to congratulate you on this month's (December 2001) issue. It has, in my opinion, pieces that are as good as or better than many I have seen in journals with much wider circulation. I am thinking particularly of the essays by Bonner McAllester, Peter Murkett, and George Emmons—which is certainly not to deprecate the other articles.

Also I was struck by much of the poetry—very fine indeed.

Again, congratulations—and thanks.

— Jim Michelman
New Marlborough

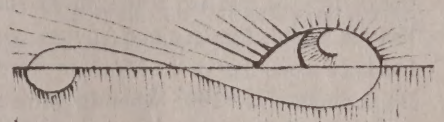
Personal Notes

Best wishes to all in this new year of 2002. And birthday wishes to **Don Welsch** on the 3rd, **Barbara Tryon** on the 5th, **Evan Sylbert** on the 9th, **Cindy Hebert** on the 10th, **Jim Deloy** on the 11th, **Julian Mendel** on the 13th, **Bridget Mendel** on the 15th, **Laura Anne Dinan** on the 22nd, **Shelley Bynack** and **Emma Mielke** on the 26th.

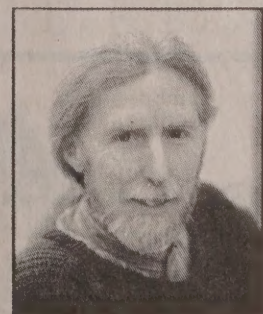
Anniversary greetings to **Karl and Shirley Quisenberry** on the 1st, **Don and Carol Welsch** on the 5th, **Rick and Debbie Mielke** on the 9th, and **Rod and Jeri Palmer** on the 23rd.

(School choice families please send in notices of your child's school activities. This information is not always readily available to me and it would be a great help in compiling this column. Also, if you have someone at college let us know about Dean's Lists, sports activities, etc. Thanks.)

— Deborah Mielke



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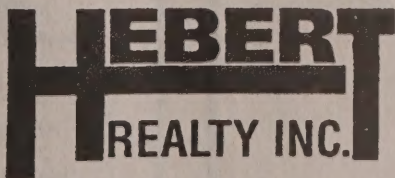
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Remembering Ian Rodgers

Monterey mourns the loss of one of its sons.

Ian Rodgers, 21, a fireman apprentice with the US Coast Guard stationed in Kodiak, Alaska died Saturday, December 8, in Kodiak from injuries suffered in a mountaineering accident.

Born on October 22, 1980, in Pittsfield, he was the son of "Buddy" and Cathy Molenko Rodgers of Monterey. He was educated in local schools and was a 1999 graduate of Lenox High School.

In high school he was a member of the soccer, alpine skiing, and baseball teams, was a two time captain of the ski team, and was selected for the All-Berkshire ski team in his senior year. In the winter he skied every day at Butternut Basin Ski Area, where he was also a member of their ski team and competed in many local and regional events.

Ian joined the Coast Guard in 2001, received his rating as a fireman apprentice on July 20, and had been stationed at Kodiak Island, Alaska since August. Ian had been a member of the Monterey Fire Department since 1995 when he joined the junior firefighter program and became a full member of the department in 1998.

Ian Rodgers is survived by his parents, Buddy and Cathy Rodgers at home;

Remembering Elisabeth Tucker

Elisabeth M. Tucker, 73, of 29 Mill Street, Westfield, a summer resident of Monterey and North Chester, died November 24 at Jewish Nursing Home of Western Massachusetts in Longmeadow.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, on May 1, 1928, daughter of Dr. Fritz A. H. Leuchs and Elsie Schneider Leuchs, she was educated in Brooklyn schools and graduated from Pembroke College of Brown University in 1949 with an A.B.

his sister, Rachel Rodgers of Dennisville, New Jersey; his companion, Lillian Busch of Camby, Oregon; his aunt, Margaret Quinn, and her husband, Brian, of Lenox; his uncle, Alexander Molenko, and his wife Rae, of Belmore, New York; and many cousins and friends.

Donations may be made in Ian Rodgers' memory to the Monterey Fire Department or to the Barrington Food Pantry in care of the Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances, memories and reflections for the Rodgers family may also be sent to finnerty@bcn.net.

in mathematics. She earned a master's degree in education from Westfield State College. She had resided in Westfield for fifty-two years.

Mrs. Tucker was a communicant of St. Mary's Church in Westfield.

A homemaker, she was an accomplished musician, playing organ and piano at celebrations, horse shows and supper clubs. She also tuned pianos.

She is survived by her husband of fifty-two years, John B. Tucker; a son, Daniel John Tucker of Wasilla, Alaska; two daughters, Ann Tucker Kousch of Westfield and Gail Marie Kautz of Bundett, New York. She was predeceased by a son, John Bruce Tucker, Jr., in 1976. She also leaves a sister, Anne Marie Makuc of Monterey. Her brother, Frederick L. Leuchs predeceased her in 1999. She also leaves seven grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Donations may be made to St. Mary's Elementary School, 35 Bartlett St., Westfield, MA 01085, or to Jewish Nursing Home, 770 Converse St., Longmeadow, MA 01106.



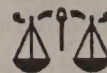
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FAX (413) 528-9888

January Calendar

Every Thursday: People's Pantry, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Peter's Parish, 16 Russell St., Great Barrington. Free food for South County needy.

Saturday, January 5: Ice skating lesson for children 5 and older, 9-9:45 a.m., Monterey ice skating rink, weather permitting. See p. 3.

Wednesday, January 9: Community potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Everyone invited, please come. At 7:30 p.m. jazz singer Alice Berke will perform, accompanied by Arnie Hayes, in church sanctuary. See p. 5.

Thursday, January 10: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc. (Please note change in day and time.)

Friday, January 18:

Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Meetinghouse basement.

Pasta Dinner, 5-7 p.m., First Congregational Church of Otis, Rt. 8, on the green, Otis center. Everyone welcome

Private &
Semi-private
Classes

Special Orders
Welcome



GRENADIER
POTTERY

Open by appointment
or when you see
the "OPEN" sign

413 528 9973
12 Tyringham Road

General Store Closes Temporarily

The Monterey General Store is closing its doors temporarily, effective January 1, 2002. It is planned that the store will be closed for about two weeks for reorganization.

to enjoy pasta, garlic bread, green salad, and various homemade desserts in an atmosphere of fun and great companionship. Adults \$5; children ages 5 to 12 \$3; children ages 4 and under free.

Monday, January 21: Town Offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

Saturday, January 26: Square and contra dancing, 8:30-11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Gail Griffin. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults \$6, children \$3. Information (413) 528-9385.

Monday, January 28: Full Moon.

The Observer

November 26-December 25

High temp. (12/7) 64°
Low temp. (12/23, 24) 12°
Avg. high temp. 44.6°
Avg. low temp. 30.1°
Avg. temp. 37.4°
Total precipitation
(rain and melted snow) 3.55"
Snowfall 9"
Precipitation occurred on 17 days.

How to Get a Burn Permit

Burn permits will be available beginning January 1, 2002, by calling Maynard Forbes at the town garage, 528-1734.

Contributors

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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the

News by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us in Monterey at 413-528-4347.

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Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 14; Bonner McAllester, p. 12; Glynis Oliver, p. 17

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MONTEREY NEWS

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